

Courses

A minimum of 45 credits is required to finish the program, but it is not unusual that a new teacher attends one or two course sessions before officially registering for credit.

39 of the 45 credits are compulsory, the remaining 6 credits can be chosen from the electives. The pattern of compulsory and elective courses differs somewhat for classroom teachers teaching in Inuktitut, classroom teachers teaching in second language, and language teachers. Following is a list of all courses available in the program. New courses are being added as the need arises.

1. Orientation to Inuit Education, 433-245 [3 credits]
2. Social and Emotional Development and Behaviour, 414-211 [3 credits]
3. Educational and Administrative Institutions in the North, 411-202 [3 credits]
4. Perceptual-motor Development and Teaching, 414-212 [3 credits]
5. Cultivating Language and Thought, 433-246 [3 credits]
6. Practicum in Individualized Instruction, 433-247 [6 credits]
7. Teaching Internship and Evaluation, 435-422 [6 credits]
8. Reading and Writing Inuktitut, 433-248 [3 credits]
9. Inuktitut Orthography and Grammar, 433-249 [3 credits]
10. Mathematics for Inuit Children, 433-242 [3 credits]
11. Cultural Skills, 426-242 [3 credits]
12. Inuktitut Language Arts, 433-241 [3 credits]
13. Process and Methods in Reading Inuktitut, 433-243 [3 credits]
14. Second Language Methods for Northern Teachers, 431-247 [3 credits]
15. Intermediate Inuktitut, 433-342 [3 credits]
16. Advanced Inuktitut, 433-344 [3 credits]
17. Special Topics in Inuit Culture, 433-340 [3 credits]
18. Use and adaptation of Curricula in Northern Schools, 433-240 [3 credits]
19. Background Mathematics for Elementary Teachers, 433-230 [3 credits]

for further information contact

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INUIT TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

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INUIT TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

In 1975 our teacher training program was founded on the strong belief that Inuit teachers had a key role to play in northern education. The high percentage of graduates now working in all areas of Inuit education is the best proof of its success. Over the years a philosophy of education encompassing children and adults alike has crystallized. It emphasizes these beliefs:

The training program must be offered in the north in a work-study format which does not disrupt the family and job responsibilities of the teachers-in-training.

Just as it is crucial for Inuit children to receive their early schooling in Inuktitut so it is important for the teachers-in-training to be doing their course work in Inuktitut.

It is essential for children's self-esteem and cultural identity to have teachers of their own culture and it is equally important for teachers-in-training to be taught by Inuit instructors.

Since the northern environment and the needs of our teachers-in-training evolve constantly, the content of the program must be continuously evaluated and revised. This has to be done in consultation with Inuit Educators (instructors, counsellors and graduates of the Teacher Training program).

The development of teaching materials and their evaluation as well as all educational research being carried out must be an integral part of the program.

Courses in special education must be emphasized early on so that teachers can help all students, including those with minor learning disabilities.

Graduates should have the opportunity to continue studying towards a higher university degree without having to sacrifice their family and job responsibilities.

Program Description

The majority of teachers enrolled in our program teach at the Kindergarten Grade 1 and 2 levels, where the language of instruction is Inuktitut. A growing number of language teachers who work at the upper primary and secondary levels and a small number of classroom teachers teaching in second language are also registered in the program.

Courses are taught in Inuktitut by trained Inuit instructors and graduates of the 45 credit program receive the Brevet d'enseignement du ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (provincial teaching diploma) as well as the McGill Certificate in Native and Northern Education. The teaching diploma is the teacher's legal qualification to work in schools where the language of instruction is Inuktitut. The certificate gives the graduates the opportunity to continue studying towards a university degree.

Admission

To be eligible candidates must

- I) be recommended by their local Education Committee and by the Teacher Training Department;
- II) hold regular teaching positions or be regular substitute teachers;
- III) follow courses organized by the Teacher Training Department on a regular basis;
- IV) work with itinerant or local counsellors throughout the year
- V) speak, read, and write Inuktitut fluently.

Training Sessions

These are offered twice a year. In the summer there is a 3 1/2 week session during which a student can usually accumulate up to 7 credits. In the winter a 3-credit course is offered in 7-day intensive sessions.

Work with Counsellors

While attendance at courses is very important, it is of equal importance in our program that teachers-in-training work closely with counsellors and so continue the training on the job. Where local counsellors are available the trainees have daily access to this support. In other settlements itinerant counsellors visit regularly and contact is also maintained over the telephone.

